

GOAL!

WEEKLY

Season 2: Issue 33
Monday 23 Sep 06: \$3

ing all colours and reporting in black &

**High-Fives
For Victory!**
Full Reports
Pages 14-16

**Box Hill
Win WPL
Again!**
Full Report
Pages 11-13

PLUS

STATE LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS - GOLD MEDAL - SEASON IN REVIEW AND MORE...

CHAMPIONS!

GLORY DAYS RETURN TO SOUTH



Special
Grand Final
Souvenir
Edition

Photo by Daniel Flis

SASH BECVINOVSKI

2006 VODAFONE CUP GOLD MEDAL WINNER

GOAL!
WEEKLY



HOW THE VOTING FINISHED...

Sash Becvinovski	Altona Magic 27
Emmanuel Muscat	Sunshine Georgies 24
Fernando De Moraes	South Melbourne 23
Henry Fa'Arodo	Essendon Royals 23
Jeffrey Fleming	Green Gully 23
Anthony Magnacca	Preston Lions 19
Cameron Leopold	Frankston Pines 19
Nick Sabljak	Heidelberg United 19
Tanel Baser	South Melbourne 19
Colin Azzopardi	Sunshine Georgies 18



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Winners Are Grinners!

Box Hill's Anthea Vardakas and Altona Magic marksmen Sash Becvinovski took out Victorian football's top honor, the Vodafone Gold Medal, last night at the Grand Hyatt.

Both players temporarily put Grand Final preparations on hold to celebrate their remarkable achievement.

Vardakas pipped team mate and last year's winner Georgia Koutrouvelis to the prize with a run away second half of the season, ending on 35 votes. The talented midfielder is part of the NTC program and Victoria Vision and her Gold Medal win is expected to push her claims for national selection.

For Becvinovski the win has been a long time coming. "I've always been the bridesmaid finishing second and third on many occasions," said the striker after last night's win. He credits his wife for his continued drive and determination. "She always believed in me and told me to keep at it and this honour would come one day."

Becvinovski's victory comes on the back of his fourth Vodafone Cup/VPL Golden Boot, his first coming with Green Gully in 1991. He backed it up with the Cavaliers in 1992 and the Magic in 1998. The veteran polled 27 votes, winning from Sunshine's Manny Muscat (24) and South Melbourne maestro Fernando De Moraes, Solomon Islands and Royals striker Henry Fa'Arodo and Green Gully's Kiwi international Jeffrey Fleming - all on 23 votes.

Goal! Weekly congratulates the following outstanding recipients from the 2006 Vodafone gold medal night awards

MILO 2006 HOAR / MELVIN AWARD (BEST JUNIOR GIRL)
ENZA BARILLA (KEILOR PARK WSC)

FOXTEL DIGITAL 2006 JANE OAKLEIGH AWARD (OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT - NTC)
MEGHAN ARCHER (HEIDELBERG UNITED WSC)

VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION 2006 JONES/MARTIN AWARD (BEST YOUTH GIRL)
RITA MANKOWSKA (HEIDELBERG UNITED WSC)

VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION 2006 WEINSTEIN MEDAL
PAUL GIANNIOU (VICTORIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT)

COVO SPORTS 2006 REFEREE DEVELOPMENT AWARD
LAZAROS VASSILIADIS

COVO SPORTS 2006 REFEREE OF THE YEAR AWARD
DAMIR BASIC

TVH 2006 BILL FLEMING MEDIA AWARD (BEST PLAYER AS VOTED BY MEDIA)
ANTHONY MAGNACCA (PRESTON LIONS SC)

WAVESTAR 2006 MACQUARIE ROCCO AWARD (VICTORIA VISION - WOMEN'S NSL)
SARAH GROENEWALD (HEIDELBERG UNITED WSC)

METRICON 2006 UNDER 21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR
DANIEL VISEVIC (RICHMOND SC)

MIRABELLA 2006 WOMEN'S GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR
AFIFA SAAD (SOUTH MELBOURNE WSC)

MIRABELLA 2006 MEN'S GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR
DEAN ANASTASIADIS (SOUTH MELBOURNE FC)

NIKE 2006 WOMEN'S LEADING GOALSCORER
MELANIE CAMILLERI (KEILOR PARK WSC)

NIKE 2006 MEN'S LEADING GOALSCORER
SASH BECVINOVSKI (ALTONA MAGIC SC)

ONLY SPORT 2006 WOMEN'S COACH OF THE YEAR
MARK LINFORD (BENDIGO VIPERS WSC)

ONLY SPORT 2006 MEN'S COACH OF THE YEAR
STUART MUNRO (OAKLEIGH CANNONS)

VODAFONE 2006 WOMEN'S GOLD MEDAL
ANTHEA VARDAKAS (BOX HILL WSC)

VODAFONE 2006 MEN'S GOLD MEDAL
SASH BECVINOVSKI (ALTONA MAGIC SC)



WPL Top Goalscorer
Melanie Camilleri in action
for Keilor Park against
Heidelberg

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Monday 25 September

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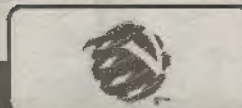
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VODAFONE CUP *Grand Final*



JOHNNY A'S SOUTH CAPTURES CROWN!

DE NITTIS WINNER HAUNTS MAGIC AGAIN



South Melbourne 1 - 0 Altona Magic FC



Goalscorer Gianni De Nittis says thank you very much and leaves the Magic in his wake

Altona Magic will be glad to see the back of South Melbourne striker Gianni De Nittis for season 2006 after the 20 year old striker's goal gave South the Vodafone Cup at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

De Nittis's goal follows his two goal haul against the Magic just a fortnight ago and consigned Altona to beaten grand finalist for the second time in the last three years.

Playing before a crowd of just over 5000 spectators, South controlled possession in the first 45 minutes. Playing with the advantage of a gale force wind, South immediately went on the front foot looking to attack the Magic at every opportunity with three attempts on goal in the opening ten minutes. Fernando De Moraes blasted over with a left foot strike after the ball found him on the blind side of his marker Ivan Razov. South's midfielder Antonio Naglieri headed into the side netting whilst George Tzirtis's shot from distance found the safe arms of Magic keeper Bojo Jevdevic.

The player who came closest to scoring for South in their dominant first half, was defender Dino Djulbic with a close range header after De Moraes penetrated to the right byline and chipped the ball across the goal face. Only a reflex save by Jevdevic prevented Djulbic's header flying into the net.

As Altona's defense and midfield dropped deeper, they struggled to play the ball out, giving away possession. Striker Sash Becvinovski found himself increasingly isolated and starved of service. His frustration spilled over when he tackled South's Djulbic

in a foul which earned him the only yellow card of the half.

It looked like the Magic were trying to hold out till the break without conceding, in the hope that they would enjoy more scoring opportunities and exert pressure on South, in the second half with the gale at their back.

But it was South who continued to push forward in the first 15 minutes of the second half with De Moraes sending a cross to striker Andreas Oliveira whose close range header whistled over the bar. South's winner came five minutes later when De Moraes received the ball out wide on the left, paused momentarily with his shadow Ivan Razov at his back, before producing a sharp turn to lose Razov and send a left foot cross into the six yard box, which DeNittis powered home with his head.

Altona's first chance of the match from open play, came in the 63rd minute when midfielder Doug Mladenovic fired from long distance straight at South keeper Dean Anastasiadis.

Magic coach, Vlado Torteviski, used all his subs in second half bid to freshen up his attack and to replace the injured Ivan Razov who left the field on a stretcher.

Defender Kole Delev almost scored his second goal in two weeks when his volley from a Daniel Vasilevski free kick, lobbed just over the bar in the 80th minute. However the Magic's chances of scoring took a turn for the worse, when ace striker Becvinovski left the field on a stretcher after falling awkwardly leaving the Magic to play the last five minutes with 10 men.

The Magic almost grasped a lifeline when Vasilevski attempted a repeat of his injury time goal from a set piece in the previous meeting between the two clubs, but keeper Anastasiadis palmed the ball away for a corner.

The final whistle sparked celebrations on the South bench as coach Anastasiadis leapt onto the park hugging his staff and players.

Ex South great and former Socceroo, Jimmy Rooney awarded the medal named after him to Fernando De Moraes for player of the final, who stepped onto the podium draped in the Brazilian national flag and a South Melbourne scarf.

The Minister of Sport, Justin Madden then rose onto the podium to award the Vodafone Cup trophy to South's skipper and coach, Dean and John Anastasiadis.

Magic: B. Jevdevic, S. Mrkela, L. Osman, D. Mladenovic, K. Delev, S. Becvinovski, T. Razov, I. Arsovsk, P. Cergovski, I. Razov, D. Vasilevski
Subs: A. Sherifovski, A. Opazo, S. Zilic

South: D. Anastasiadis, S. Devito, D. Djulbic, T. Baser, R. Tavsanoglou, A. Tzirtis, A. Naglieri, S. MacNicol, F. Demoraes, A. Oliveira, G. De Nittis
Subs: Natsioulas / MacNicol 72nd

Scorer: de Nittis (SM) 51st

By George Stogiannou
Photos by Daniel Flis

What the Coaches Said...



John Anastasiadis
South Melbourne:

got our just rewards and we're very happy.

I think we had complete control throughout the match. Being 0-0 at half-time I thought we may be in for some problems, but all credit to the boys, they were just unbelievable in the second-half. I think we fully deserved to win today to lift the cup. It's been a hard slog the last couple of years, but we



Vlado Torteviski
Altona Magic

It was just one of those days for us and we had a bad game. First of all the weather was terrible for football, but there are no excuses as we didn't perform to our best. Congratulations to South Melbourne who deserved to win. Instead of having a special day I'm sorry to our fans for not being able to go all the way. It was a great achievement overall by the boys and we're all very proud of them for going as far as they did. We look forward to giving it another big go next year."

Man of the Match Fernando De Moraes (South)



Above: Deja Vu! Altona's Delev brothers reflect on what could have been after going so close again in another Grand Final

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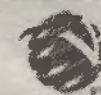
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Monday 25 September



VODAFONE CUP

DETAILS



A QUESTION OF SPORT

1/ Which year was the last time South Melbourne won the equivalent of the Vodafone Cup?

2/ How many times has Box Hill Inter now won successive WPL titles?

3/ Who has been appointed as the new coach of the Melbourne Knights?

4/ Which former NSL and Vodafone cup star hung up his boots for good after playing his last match for Oakleigh Cannons?

5/ Who was voted as this year's referee of the year?

6/ Which Box Hill Inter midfielder took out the WPL's Gold Medal last Monday night?

7/ Which former Fawkner/Whittlesea Blues defender made the switch to the A-league's Queensland Roar earlier this year?

8/ Bentleigh Greens coach Vlado Vanis has the unfortunate honour of experiencing relegation when he was charge of which two other clubs?

9/ Who was the first Australian player to ever win a Top Goalscorer Award in a European league?

10/ Can you name the other Australian who repeated the feat in the same country the very next season?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1976, The year before it entered
2. Four
3. Chris Taylor
4. Conn Bonaventura
5. Dennis Beale
6. Sash Becvinovski
7. St Albans and Heidelberg
8. Eddie Krocic, He was
9. Belgium's Top Scorer with 28 goals
10. Frank Farina at Brugges

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Sash Becvinovski
Altona Magic FC 17

Michael Curcija
Kingston City FC 16

James Robinson
Richmond Eagles FC 13

Esala Masi
Oakleigh Cannons FC 12

Mark Tsiorlas
Fawkner/Whittlesea 12

Anthony Magnacca
Preston Lions 11

VODAFONE CUP TABLE- Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Oakleigh Cannons	26	16	7	3	47	24	55
Altona Magic	26	12	7	7	32	23	43
South Melbourne	26	12	6	8	45	28	42
Heidelberg Utd	26	12	5	9	43	36	41
Kingston City	26	11	5	10	37	39	38
Green Gully	26	10	7	9	45	40	37
Preston Lions	26	10	7	9	45	46	37
Richmond Eagles	26	9	8	9	41	38	35
Bulleen Zebras	26	9	6	11	27	36	33
Fawkner-Whittlesea	26	10	1	15	38	51	31
Essendon Royals	26	8	6	12	32	37	30
Melbourne Knights	26	8	6	12	33	39	30
Sunshine Georgies	26	8	6	12	30	36	30
Frankston Pines	26	6	5	15	23	45	23

The Final Six



Week 1

Qualifying Final

Oakleigh Cannons 0
v
Altona Magic 2
Bob Jane Stadium
Sunday, 03 Sept

Elimination Finals

South Melbourne 3
v
Green Gully 0
Bob Jane Stadium
Friday, 01 Sept

Heidelberg United 5
v
Kingston City 1
Knights Stadium
Sunday, 03 Sept

Week 2

2nd Semi-Final

Altona 1 - 2 South
Knights Stadium,
Sunday 10 Sept

Winner goes straight to Grand Final
Loser goes to Preliminary Final

1st Semi-Final

Oakleigh 0 - 1 Bergers
Bob Jane Stadium
Friday, 08 Sept

Loser is Eliminated

Week 3

Preliminary Final

Altona 2 - 1 Heidelberg
Bob Jane Stadium
Sunday 17th Sep

Winner goes to Grand Final
Loser is Eliminated

Week 4

Grand Final



1

South Melbourne



Champions

0

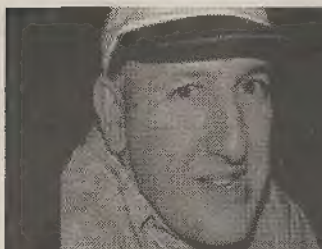


Altona Magic



BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric



Young player of the year Daniel Visevic with FFV CEO Tony Pignata

Version 2 of the A League looks like being the season of the video review tribunal. First Fred copped time for his karate chop at Mark Milligan then Steve Corica did extra time after being sent off for calling the referee a word that rhymes with runt. This week it will be Adelaide's Shengqing Qu for headbutting Chad Gibson in the Roar v Adelaide clash. I don't think the Zidane defence of he "he called my mum a terrorist whore" will work, so he may be spending a spell on the sidelines.

Melbourne Victory is making the big move to Telstra Dome after the success of the game against Sydney FC. If they could have signed six Brazilians, would they be playing at the MCG by now? Romario has signed as a guest player for Adelaide, who have realised that having just Fernando Rech on their books is not a high enough Brazilian quota. Now even at 40 years of age, Romario is an actual Brazilian import that could actually fill a ground like the Telstra Dome.

Terry Butcher thinks there may be a conspiracy against Sydney FC. Shame for him that he got the coaching job there a year too late. Last year the conspiracy was all FOR Sydney. The team of the FFA chairman and the big money marquee and high profile coach winning the Grand Final was a fairytale scripted to help crack the Sydney sporting market.

Major scandal brewing in England at the moment after the BBC's Panorama programme investi-

gated dodgy transfer dealings between managers and agents. Last week I was contacted by ABC's Four Corners who are conducting a similar expose. They claim I have accepted "bungs" to promote the career of Peter Psarros and talk him up in this paper. The also asked about a phone call I am alleged to have made to Sam Allardyce offering him \$50 if he would sign the Doveton striker. The matter is in the hands of my lawyers.

Speaking of lawyers, if there's any divorce lawyers out there, get in touch with Fawcner-Whittlesea SC, they may be in need of your assistance. Starting to see why they are nicknamed the Blues with the merged factions not really getting along.

Congratulations to all the winners at the Gold Medal Night, even the referee scum. Did I write scum? I meant fine gentlemen! A very well done to Daniel Visevic for winning the Under 21 Player of the Year Award. Please get a big head so I can knock you down a peg or two in the Richmond Club Magazine next year, there will only be so much mileage I can get out of Stuart McCluskey's endless speeding fines.

Was Stan Collymore really a target of the Newcastle Jets? Or was he just spotted loitering in their club's car park as a part of his sexual fetish of "dogging"?

And now, the end is near.

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STATE LEAGUES



Stars See Off Greens to Take Up Final Spot!



Stars keeper Kosta Pajic makes the fateful save that guarantees the Stars will compete in State League One next year

It was a cruel way in which their season ended but the steady nerve of Southern Stars keeper Kosta Pajic condemned the Bentleigh Greens to a further slide down the Victorian football hierarchy. The Greens were defeated on penalties at Port Melbourne's Anderson Reserve in front of a very vocal crowd on Saturday sending the once strong outfit down to State League 2.

Even before the game started Southern Stars had a vociferous group of supporters gathering to will their men onto victory as opposed to the few Greens supporters seen here and there.

There were also a number of luminaries from many clubs seen around such as former Sunshine coach Chris Taylor and Taki Svigos who were amongst the crowd.

The game started with the Southern Stars asking all the questions of the Greens and they seemed to be a squad that was too young and really too inexperienced to cope with the stars and it seemed like it was going to be a long day for the Greens. This being said however the Stars were struggling to create any chances which we clear cut and the Greens weren't getting a sniff of the goals.

It was at times as if both teams were playing scared and they knew the gravity that a mistake would have and the cost that the slightest error would have. As the half time whistle echoed

around Anderson Reserve both teams walked off scoreless it was increasingly evident that this was going to be a one goal game with extra time and penalties a distinct possibility.

Bentleigh showed a little bit more in the second half and was a little bit more attacking but again nothing really penetrating. The Stars looked dangerous without again really carving much out though they did bring the most pressure to bear. As the game was drifting along in injury time and everyone was readying themselves for the extra twenty minutes a clumsy challenge by a Bentleigh defender saw the referee emphatically point to the white penalty spot on the far end of the ground and it looked to be all over for the Greens.

Somehow the boy who stepped up to take the penalty stone cold choked and sent his penalty high to his left and sailing into the number two ground behind the goals to temporarily silence the stunned Southern Stars faithful. A few minutes later the referee's whistle blew and it was onto extra time.

Bentleigh started extra time with a small period of sustained attack but it really was game which lacked any concrete chances. Whilst Southern Stars looked the more polished side and had their chances neither team over the 110 minutes created anything and as the referee's whistle pierced the afternoon air, a team's fate was going to be

sealed by the lottery of the penalty shootout.

Southern stars won the toss for the kicks and kicked first, which as most people know is an advantage as you always have the lead in the

shootout.

The first five penalties from each side were all money. All in the various corners and all giving the goalkeepers little hope, so after the first round of penalties it was locked at five.

Up stepped the sixth kicker for the Southern Stars and again money lower right hand corner, Bentleigh gasping for air. Up stepped the poor lad who had earlier given away the penalty late in regular injury time. A hush around the ground was indicative that this was the moment and as he stepped up and struck the penalty it went a meter to the right of the Southern Stars keeper. Down went the keeper getting all of the ball and as the ball rolled away from the goal delight for the Southern Stars players and supporters who celebrated and hooted and chanted in celebration of their achievement.

Fans streamed onto the pitch and there was a fever pitch of celebration and joy as The Southern Stars had seen off Keillor Park and the Greens to take the last spot in Division One.

Dejection for the Greens players and staff as their second relegation in as many seasons and some of them were taking the loss quite hard, it was a cruel way to suffer their fate but sometimes that's football the beautiful game for some the shattered dreams of others. Man of the match without a doubt was the big number five for the Southern Stars, Murat Caliskan, this lad was all quality and in my opinion should be playing in the VPL and why he isn't is totally beyond me. So as the State League season closes it's congratulations to the Southern Stars on their promotion to Division One in 2007 and commiserations to the Bentleigh Greens who will compete in Division Two SE in 2007.

By Reuben Schembri
Photos by John Punshon



Oh yeah! Pajic sends the crowd into raptures with some fine goal keeping

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SEASON 2006 PREDICTIONS...REVISITED

At the beginning of the year Goal! Weekly asked some of its regular contributors to look into the crystal ball and tell us what the future holds for the world of football for 2006...

We take a look back and review how close our experts actually were.

What actually happened	Paul Jefferies	Reuben Schembri	Simon Chiarelli
1. Who you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?... Oakleigh Cannons	1. Who you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?... South Melbourne.	1. Who you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?... Green Gully	1. Who you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?... Oakleigh
2. Which team will be this year Champions?...	2. Which team will be this year Champions?... South Melbourne	2. Which team will be this year Champions?..... Green Gully	2. Which team will be this year Champions?... South Melbourne
3. Which two teams will be relegated?... Pines and Georgies	3. Which two teams will be relegated?... Pines and Magic	3. Which two teams will be relegated?... Frankston and Bulleen	3. Which two teams will be relegated?... Essendon and Sunshine...
4. Which team will be this year's surprise packet?.....	4. Which team will be this years surprise packet?..... Preston Lions	4. Which team will be this years surprise packet?... Kingston City	4. Which team will be this years surprise packet?... Kingston
5. Which team will under-achieve?.....	5. Which team will under-achieve?..... Bergers	5. Which team will under-achieve?..... Bulleen	5. Which team will underachieve?... Heidelberg
6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?... Round 6	6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?... Six	6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?..... 7	6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?... 12
7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?..... Sash Becvinovski	7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?..... Curcija	7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?... Bill Damianos	7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?... Tansel Baser
8. Which player will win the Top scorer?..... Sash Becvinovski	8. Which player will win the Top scorer?..... Curcija	8. Which player will win the Top scorer?... Michael Curcija	8. Which player will win the Top scorer?... Kevin Nelson
9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?.....	9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?..... Comets	9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?..... Keilor Park	9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?... Cranbourne
10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup?... Made the round of 16	10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup?... Will play crap in group stages before scraping through to the next round and winning the lot. Hiddink becomes PM soon after	10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup?... Will beat Japan 2-1 draw with the croats 2-2 and cause the biggest boilover in World Cup history and beat Brazil 1-0 going through to the next round on 7 points, will win the round of 16 in extra time 3-2 and will go to penaties in the quarters.	10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup?... Will qualify for second round, with a last gasp equaliser against Croatia before bowing out against Italy in a gallant effort
11. What will the score be against Japan?..... W 3-1	11. What will the score be against Japan?..... W 2-1	11. What will the score be against Japan?..... 2-1 with goals by Mark Viduka and Jason Culina	11. What will be the score be against Japan?... W 2-0
12. Against Brazil?..... L 0-2	12. Against Brazil?..... L 0-2	12. Against Brazil?..... 1-0 win with goal by Harry Kewell	12. Against Brazil?..... L 0-2
13. Against Croatia?... D 2-2	13. Against Croatia?... D 1-1	13. Against Croatia?..... 2-2 with goals from Bresciano and Archie Thompson as second half sub.	13. Against Croatia?... D1-1
14. Who will win this year's World Cup?... Italy	14. Who will win this year's World Cup?... Brazil	14. Who will win this year's World Cup?...Holland	14. Who will win this year's World Cup?... Brazil- How can a side containing Adriano, Ronaldo, Robinho, Ronaldinho, Juninho and Kaka possibly lose?
15. Who will win this year's A-league?... Sydney FC	15. Who will win this year's A-league?... Adelaide	15. Who will win this year's A-league?..... Adelaide to choke in the final and lose 1-0 to Sydney FC.	5. Who will win this year's A-league?..... Central Coast

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Monday 25 September



SEASON 2006 PREDICTIONS...REVISITED

At the beginning of the year Goal! Weekly asked some of its regular contributors to look into the crystal ball and tell us what the future holds for the world of football for 2006... We take a look back and review how close our experts actually were.

George Katsamboukas	Adrian Ceddia	George Stogiannou	Mark "Boo" Boric
1. Who you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?... Green Gully	1. Who do you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?..... Green Gully	1. Who do you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?..... Preston Lions	1. Who do you think will win the VPL Minor Premiership?..... Green Gully
2. Which team will be this year's VPL Champions?... One of six, take your pick!	2. Which team will be this year Champions?..... Sth Melbourne	2. Which team will be this year Champions?..... Frankston Pines	2. Which team will be this year Champions?..... Preston Lions
3. Which two teams will be relegated?... Sunshine and Frankston Pines.	3. Which two teams will be relegated?..... Richmond, Bulleen	3. Which two teams will be relegated?..... Green Gully and Heidelberg	3. Which two teams will be relegated?... Sunshine, Frankston Pines
4. Which team will be this year's surprise packet?... Bulleen.	4. Which team will be this years surprise packet?..... Kingston City	4. Which team will be this years surprise packet?..... Richmond	4. Which team will be this years surprise packet?... Melbourne Knights
5. Which team will under-achieve?... Kingston City	5. Which team will under-achieve?..... Heidelberg United	5. Which team will under-achieve?..... Green Gully	5. Which team will under-achieve?..... Heidelberg United
6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?... 4	6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?..... 12	6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?..... Three	6. How many rounds before we see the first coaching casualty?..... 8
7. Which player will win the VPL Best & Fairest?... Joey DiOrio	7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?..... Kevin Nelson	7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?..... D. Matkovic	7. Which player will win the Best & Fairest?..... Andy Vargas
8. Which player will win the VPL Top scorer?... Esala Masi	8. Which player will win the Top scorer?..... Michael Curcija	8. Which player will win the Top scorer?..... Daniel Allsop	8. Which player will win the Top scorer?..... Juan Nilo
9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?... Cranbourne	9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?..... Cranbourne Comets	9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?..... Box Hill	9. Which team will win the Women's VPL?..... Box Hill Inter
10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup ? Will scrape through to next round before being knocked out in gallant effort.	10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup ? Will finish second in the group behind Brazil after defeating Japan and Croatia, but will lose in the next stage.	10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup ?... Australia will scrape into the next round before losing to Italy in a penalty shootout.	10. How will Australia will fare at the World Cup ?... Will either just miss out or scrape through the group stage, eliminated next round if we scrape through.
11. What will the score be against Japan?... W 2-1	11. What will the score be against Japan?..... W 2-0	11. What will the score be against Japan?..... 1-0 to Australia	11. What will the score be against Japan?..... W 2-0
12. Against Brazil?... L 3-0	12. Against Brazil?..... L 0-3	12. Against Brazil?..... 2-0 to Brazil	12. Against Brazil?..... L 0-2
13. Against Croatia?... D 1-1	13. Against Croatia?..... W 1-0	13. Against Croatia?..... 2-2	13. Against Croatia?..... D 1-1
14. Who will win this year's World Cup?... Brazil	14. Who will win this year's World Cup?... Brazil	14. Who will win this year's World Cup?..... Germany	14. Who will win this year's World Cup?..... Brazil
15. Who will win this year's A-league?... Adelaide	15. Who will win this year's A-league?..... Adelaide United	15. Who will win this year's A-league?..... Sydney FC	15. Who will win this year's A-league?..... Adelaide United

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Further information and a Position Description is available from Emilio Amanatidis (0419 362 378 after 6pm).

Expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals should be made in writing by 20 October 2006 to:

Emilio Amanatidis
Director -
Football Operations
Brunswick City
Soccer Club
PO Box 56
BRUNSWICK VIC 3056





Box Hill Inter The Fore!

Box Hill Inter claimed its fourth successive Women's Premier League title with a nail-biting 1-0 win over Heidelberg United at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

Daniela Digiammarco's superb volley, with only 3 minutes of normal time remaining, was just reward for Inter, which had shaded a gallant Heidelberg in both possession and attacking forays throughout the match.

The blustery conditions at Bob Jane Stadium gave Box Hill, which was kicking with the wind in the first half, a distinct advantage from the outset. Inter won a succession of corners in the opening 10 minutes as Heidelberg struggled to get the ball into its attacking third.

Newly crowned WPL Gold Medalist, Anthea Vardakas, fired Box Hill's first real shot in anger on 12 minutes, sending a stinging low strike just wide of Katie Neville's right-hand goalpost.

On 29 minutes, Digiammarco met Amanda Lawless' corner with a powerful header which cleared the crossbar.

Heidelberg's approach against the wind was to throw numbers behind the ball, and leave its formidable attacking trio of Belinda Pannella, Emma Minde and Heleena Alatsas up front to catch Inter on the break.

But, in testing conditions, it was unable to break

clear with the speed and precision necessary to trouble the Box Hill defence.

Late in the half, Georgia Koutrouvelis fired wide of the mark after a weaving run from deep midfield as Box Hill began to grow frustrated with the lack of penetration in its attacks.

And the frustration mounted on 43 minutes, when Vardakas was brought down from behind inside the penalty area, leaving Inter aggrieved not to be awarded a spot kick.

Heidelberg enjoyed its best period of the match just after the break.

Minde had two chances within the opening 10 minutes; a hurried snap from the top of the penalty area which was safely gloved by Melissa Barbieri, and a long-range effort which sailed into the stands.

On 59 minutes, Pannella broke free of her marker to run onto Melissa Frankcombe's long ball inside the 18-yard box, but her shot, hit straight at Barbieri, was scooped up easily by the Matildas custodian.

Inter midfielder Chrissy Baxendale could have broken the deadlock when she cut inside two defenders on the edge of the penalty area, but her rushed right-foot strike flew wide.

Both coaches rang the changes up front as it became apparent that a single goal would be deci-

sive. Christina Sidiropoulos replacing Minde for United, and Katrina Smith entering the fray for Box Hill striker Belinda Pacella.

Smith was immediately into the action, stepping up to send a 35 yard free kick just left of goal before launching another off-target attempt from open play.

And with 10 minutes remaining Smith's incisive through-ball released Lawless, who fired home off the crossbar under the close attention of Heidelberg sweeper Meagan Thornton.

The Box Hill celebrations lasted a good 30 seconds before the players noticed the raised flag of the referee's assistant indicating off-side.

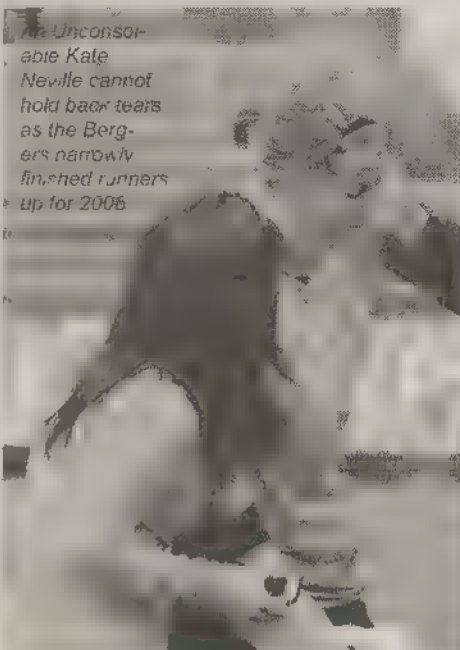
With the clock winding down, the spectre of extra-time, and a possible penalty shoot-out for the second year in a row loomed large.

But in the penultimate minute of normal time, Box Hill finally found a way through the Heidelberg defence when Digiammarco connected sweetly with Lawless' deep corner, burying a first-time volley through a packed penalty area.

The jubilant Inter players regained enough composure to safely see out the remaining minutes of the game before once again erupting at the sound of the full-time whistle, and the realisation that they had secured an historic fifth WPL title.

By George Egonidis

Photos by Daniel Flis and Phuc Pham



High Fives all round as Melissa Barbieri and Co. prepare to hoist the WPL title for a fourth time in as many years.



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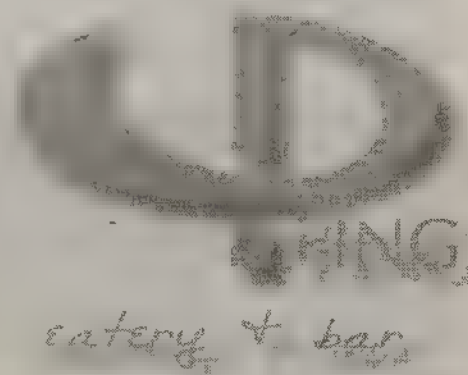


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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

How The West Was Won!



Melbourne Victory has secured its fifth victory in succession and extended its lead atop the A-League table after the side registered a 2-1 over Perth Glory at Members Equity Stadium yesterday.

Rather poetically, former Glory player Adrian Caceres opened the scoring in the 55th minute as he hammered the ball past Aleks Vrteski, before captain Kevin Muscat increased Melbourne's lead from the penalty spot.

Defender David Tarka earned Perth a consolation goal in the 92nd minute, as Glory slumped to its third loss of the season in front of another disappointing sub-10,000 crowd in the former stronghold of domestic football.

Caceres was a stand out on his return to Perth with his incredible ball control, but it was his introduction during the first half which raised a few eyebrows as it came at the expense of the ineffective Alessandro.

The Brazilian, who has developed somewhat of a reputation for his on-field outbursts and theatrics, stormed off the park refusing the goalscorer's hand before trudging onto the bench in a blaze of fury.

Controlling the game's early exchanges, Victory's menacing forward combination of Danny Allsopp and Archie Thompson almost combined to edge Melbourne in front early, giving the Glory an early scare.

Scottish midfielder Grant Brebner, returning from a knee injury sustained against New Zealand, controlled the midfield brilliantly, directing traffic through the middle of the park, while central partner Muscat continued his recent rich vein of form with his hard-nosed approach.

However, Perth soon assumed control of the match, coercing Victory coach Ernie Merrick into making his first change as he substituted off the flamboyant Alessandro for Caceres in what would prove to be an inspired decision.

Kiwi Leo Bertos and Stan Lazaridis were again Perth's main attacking threats, dominating their respective wings as Melbourne struggled to regain the composure that had typified its early season form.

Ron Smith's Glory though was unable to convert its possession dominance into goals as the half

drew to the close, with the side holding the ascendancy.

But 10 minutes into the second half, Melbourne broke the deadlock through ex-Perth Glory player Caceres.

The fleet-footed winger was left unmarked inside the 18-yard box, and hit a perfect first-touch pass from Muscat on the bounce past a hapless Vrteski, forcing the Glory to rue its early release of the star earlier this year.

Interestingly, Caceres' only other A-League goal was scored in the corresponding fixture last season in round two at Olympic Park.

Spurred into action, Perth almost found an immediate reply through Bertos, but the right-winger drove his shot agonisingly wide of Michael Theoklitos' goal from the edge of the box.

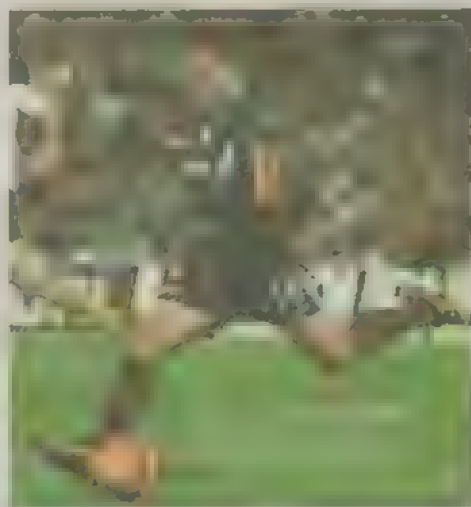
Iconic Glory star Bobby Despotovski was introduced into the attack midway through the second half in an attempt inject a creative spark, but lacking in match fitness, last season's Johnny Warren Medallist was unable to inspire his side.

Victory soon doubled its advantage in the 72nd minute from the penalty spot, after Thompson earned a penalty for handball, when Adrian Webster handled his cross in the area.

Spot kick specialist Muscat stepped up and scored his fourth goal of the year, slotting the ball to the right of Vrteski.

David Tarka firmly headed the ball home from a corner deep in injury time to earn his side a belated goal but it was too little too late as Melbourne set up a top of the table clash with Queensland next week at their new home, the Telstra Dome.

By Simon Chiarelli
Player ratings by Teo Pellizzeri



PERTH GLORY

Aleks Vrteski (6): Went the right way on Muscat's penalty...but there's no stopping a Muscat penalty. Saw Caceres' strike late.

David Tarka (7): Grabbed a stoppage time goal, his first in the A-League, but was otherwise average on a tough day for the taller, slower, defenders.

Simon Colosimo (7): Perth's best, had an involvement in almost every move the Glory constructed. The frequency of these moves however, was the reason they only managed the single goal.

Jamie Hamwell (6): Kept Allsopp quiet but Melbourne's other attacking options found a way past the Perth skipper. Sacrificed as the Glory looked for goals late on.

Stan Lazaridis (7): Provided leadership for the Perth side, running hard down the left flank all game. Just didn't have enough of the ball to really provide for his forwards.

Leo Bertos (7): Was wasteful in the attacking third, but ultimately contributed an assist for a consolation Perth goal.

Ante Kovacevic (6): A couple of early errors, but wasn't at fault for either of Melbourne's goals.

Adrian Webster (5): Unable to disguise his

handball, leaning into Thompson's cross and knocking the ball down with his arm.

Jamie Coyne (6): Failed to provide any drive on the counter attack, leaving the hard yards to the overworked Perth midfield.

Stuart Young (6): A couple of shots off target, but largely a non-threatening presence in the Perth forward line.

Naum Sekulovski (6): Busy afternoon chasing the long shadows at the Members Equity stadium. Unable to have a hand in a goal, unlike last time.

Subs

Bobby Despotovski (5): Showed a lack of match fitness, and will need more first team football before finding his Warren Medal form of last season.

Mislav Saric (5): Anonymous after being given just over 20 minutes to try and snatch a late goal.

Jeremy Christle (6): Unable to change the pace of the game after coming on with 12 minutes to go.

Unused Subs

Jason Petkovic

MVFC

Michael Theoklitos (7): Preferred to stay on his line given the sun interference, but it didn't cost him a goal until late in stoppage time.

Kevin Muscat (9): Involved in both of Melbourne's goals, and constantly martialing the troops with a verbal contribution. A fantastic captain's knock.

Daniel Piorkowski (8): A tough afternoon looking into the sun all game, did not spend a lot of time on the ball.

Daniel Allsopp (6): Had the fitness to play the full game, but was restricted to half chances.

Archie Thompson (7): Ran hard for the team's cause, eventually winning the penalty for Melbourne's second goal.

Rodrigo Vargas (7): Up for plenty of aerial battles, and a continuing reflection on the defensive improvement of the Victory this season.

Kristian Sarkies (7): A few nice passes early but struggled in the heat as the game advanced and was substituted after the hour mark.

Adrian Leijer (6): Collected a yellow, and was the closest man to Tarka for Perth's goal. Will use his final 15 minutes as motivation to improve next match.

Simon Storey (6): A battling performance on the right side, an improvement on the previous two weeks holding his shape and keeping possession.

Grant Brebner (7): A fiery midfield performance, teaming up with Muscat to battle all afternoon with Colosimo. Continued his consistent form.

Alessandro (5): Unable to make an impact on the contest and substituted after just 34 minutes.

Subs

Adrian Caceres (8): Proved a point to his old side, and silenced the home fans with a cracking goal, and a couple of other half chances in another convincing bid for a starting spot.

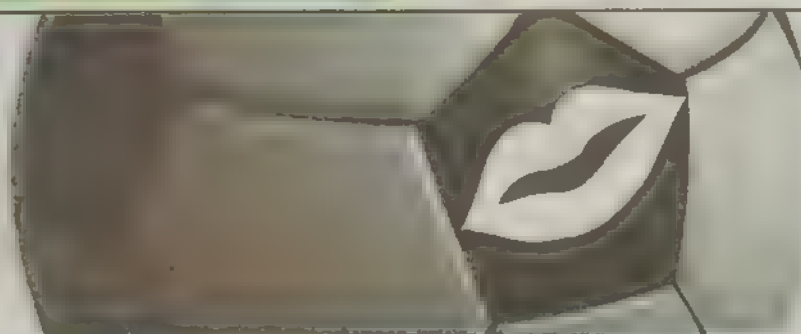
Steve Pantelidis (6): Plays the football equivalent of a 'closing pitcher' in baseball. But on this occasion the Victory did concede, the first goal to go in with Pantelidis on the field this season.

Vince Lia (6): On late again, and unable to make much of a contribution given only 7 minutes to adapt.

Unused Subs

Eugene Galekovic

86.7 FM



Kiss

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

Round
5

Bleiberg's Boys Hold United



QLD Roar



Adelaide Utd

A ten-man Adelaide United has survived intense second-half pressure to draw 0-0 with Queensland Roar at Suncorp Stadium.

The home side dominated proceedings but couldn't find a way through Adelaide's defence despite the 58th-minute sending off of Chinese striker Shengqing Qu.

Qu, who had earlier headed Adelaide's best chance over the bar, saw red for a blatant head-butt on Roar skipper Chad Gibson as the pair tangled in the Reds' box.

He will now miss next weekend's Labour Day clash with Sydney FC at Hindmarsh.

For Queensland, spritely forward Simon Lynch, who was booked for overzealously appealing a first-half decision himself, was lively throughout, spurning a series of glorious chances.

Second-half substitute Yuning Zhang was also foiled by an inspired performance from Adelaide goalkeeper Robert Bajic.

Roar boss Miron Bleiberg followed through with his promise to involve Gibson after the Queensland captain was omitted from the 15-man squad altogether last Friday against the Knights.

The other surprise news was Spase Dilevski's exclusion at the expense of returning under-20 striker Dario Vidovic, who had already played three games in the past nine days. Vidovic joined relegated frontman Ante Milicic on the bench.

But the changes didn't affect the Roar's usual fast start and Bleiberg's side might have taken the lead twice in the opening five minutes.

Just 90 seconds in, Matt McKay's diving header was aimed straight at goalkeeper Robert Bajic, then Simon Lynch blasted a gilt-edged chance against Bajic's leg when a kind ricochet landed in his path 10 metres out. In the build up to the clash, Bleiberg asked for the pre-match hype to centre on the players rather than rehash last season's spat between himself and Adelaide coach John Kosmina.

And the Queensland players were responding although Gibson and his fellow central defenders were almost caught napping when an unmarked Qu headed Greg Owens' cross over with just Liam Reddy to beat.

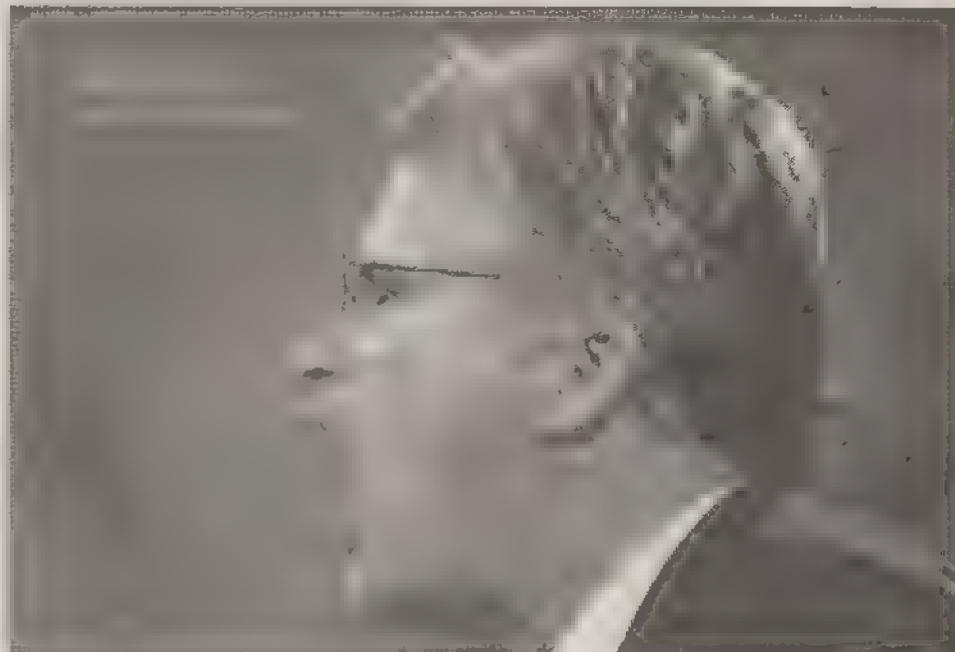
Josh McCloghlan, Lynch and Sasa Ogencovski wasted heading opportunities in the face of some slack Adelaide marking while Reinaldo tangled with Robert Cornthwaite on the edge of the Reds' areas but his appeal for free-kick was waved away by referee Matthew Breeze.

On the stroke of half-time, Lynch's run and shot then skimmed the outside of Bajic's left-hand post with the Scotsman continuing in the same vein after the interval with more relatively untroubled runs behind Adelaide's backline.

Following Qu's sending off just before the hour, Queensland roared forward with Bleiberg throwing on striking triumvirate Ante Milicic, Dario Vidovic and Yuning Zhang from the bench.

Milicic missed two of many more goalscoring chances concocted by the Roar with Zhang also inches away on four occasions from opening his Queensland goalscoring account.

But with 10 men, Adelaide was forced to absorb the pressure and will be the team far happier with a point to extend its unbeaten league run over Queensland to four matches.



However, Kosmina, was not at all pleased with his side's display.

"It's hard not to get cranky when you get tanked like we did to be honest," said Kosmina after the match. "I'll use a phrase from an old mate of mine Eddie Thomson: 'I think we were lucky to get nil'. We played well last week and we played well the week before - maybe that was the problem. We had it too easy last week and I don't think we were ready for the fight tonight."

While in the opposing dressing room, Queensland

coach Miron Bleiberg showed his delight with the Roar's progress, despite not being able to capitalise on an undermanned Adelaide.

"If we declare before the game that Adelaide - as last year's premiers - are the benchmark of the competition and we want to see if Queensland Roar version two is as good. I think that we all got one answer. We are as good as Adelaide. The statistics don't lie today."

By Marc Fox, Courtesy of FFA

Knight's Woes Continue



NZ Knights



Sydney FC

Sydney FC managed to secure its first win in four matches on Thursday night courtesy of a hard-fought 1-0 victory over the New Zealand Knights at North Harbour Stadium.

Skipper Mark Rudan struck what was to be the match-winner in the 58th minute, condemning the Knights to their third successive loss.

The Knights had their fair share of possession and chances but as has been the case in recent matches they have failed to get on the score sheet.

Terry Butcher handed Jeremy Brockie his second start of the season against his former club in one of three changes to the side that drew with the Newcastle Jets on Sunday.

In contrast, Paul Nevin only made the one change to the team that was thumped 5-0 in Brisbane, with Swiss defender Gregory Duruz replacing Jonti Richter in a tactical switch.

The Knights showed more endeavour than their oppo-



nents to open the match with the visitors relying on a more direct style of play.

But it was Sydney who had the best opportunity to snatch the early lead when Brockie won his side a free kick on the edge of the Knights area in the ninth min-

ute.

Alex Brosque took charge of the situation, and with a fine attempt, he bent his shot around the wall and forced a full stretch save from Michael Turnbull.

It was then the Knights that had a great chance to grab

the lead after a Malik Buari corner in the 14th minute. Tail defender Sime Kovacevic flicked on the set-piece with his head and Hickey had a chance to nod it beyond Clint Bolton, but his mistimed effort failed to test the Sydney custodian.

These were to be the only chances of the first spell after neither side was able trouble the opposing goalkeeper.

The match opened up more in the second half as both sides searched for the goal to break the stalemate.

Both teams showed plenty of enterprise, with the combination between Noah Hickey and Dani Rodrigues creating some problems for Sydney.

But it was then Sydney who was able to create something out of nothing in the 58th minute when Rudan volleyed home with his left foot from just inside the area after a long throw-in.

There was nothing Turnbull could do except collect the ball from the back of the net after the powerful strike from the big centre-back.

Buari had a fantastic chance to make it 1-1 just two minutes later but his left-footed effort from the edge of the six-yard box sailed over the bar.

The Knights searched for an equaliser without success as Sydney soaked up the pressure and prevented the ever-present Rodrigues from having a sight on goal.

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Monday 25 September

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

Jets Snatch Late Draw



1 CC Mariners



1 Newcastle Jets

A nine-man Newcastle Jets outfit has powered home to grab a 1-1 draw with the Central Coast Mariners in an action-packed Hyundai A-League fixture at Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium on Saturday night.

The Mariners looked to be heading for their first win of the season after an early goal to John Hutchinson and four great saves from goalkeeper Danny Vukovic, but the Jets levelled in the 82nd minute through striker Joel Griffiths for a share of the points.

It was a drama-filled match, befitting a local derby, with the Central Coast dominating the first half before the Jets launched a vigorous comeback to almost steal the match. The draw, however, means both teams are still yet to register their first win of the 2006-07 Hyundai A-League season after five rounds.

Hutchinson, who is back in the starting line-up after overcoming a long-term knee injury, scored the Mariners' first goal of the season in 545 minutes of play, tapping in from point-blank range early in the first half after Jamie McMaster's header was pushed his way by Jets keeper Ben Kennedy. Newcastle almost answered immediately through much talked about import striker Milton Rodriguez but Vukovic produced a fine finger-tip save to steer the Columbian's stinging left-footed volley around the left post.

Vukovic denied the Jets again five minutes before half-time when a cross from Paul Kohler caught the Mariners defence flat-footed but Matthew Thompson's half-volley was tipped over by the Mariners keeper.



Mark Bridge looked certain to score for the Jets in the 52nd minute when he got a full-blooded strike away from just six yards out but Vukovic saved with his legs to keep the home team in front.

The Mariners looked to be home when Newcastle was reduced to 10 men in the 75th minute when skipper Paul Okon was handed a straight red card for bringing down Mariners replacement striker Adam Kwasnik.

But the Jets refused to give in and almost produced the equaliser when a Nicky Carle strike from 25 yards out looked to be heading for the back of the net before Vukovic's outstretched right hand once again denied the Jets.

With the momentum behind them, the Jets finally levelled eight minutes before the end of regular time when Griffiths ran on to a deft pass from Ro-

driguez to fire a low right-footed shot past Vukovic at the near post.

The visitors seemed to have wrestled back the ascendancy and almost stole a win, launching a number of attacks on the Mariners goal in the final minutes before Griffiths' controversial sending off for diving in injury time saw the Jets reduced to nine men.

Then there was drama down the other end as Kwasnik almost pulled it back for the home team in the dying seconds, but his powerful strike hit the right post, leaving the score locked at 1-1.

By Mark Hughes, Courtesy of FFA

Mariners "Get One Monkey" Of Their Back

Central Coast Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna has pointed to the sending off of Newcastle Jets captain Paul Okon as the turning point in the 1-1 draw in Saturday night's Hyundai A-League match at Central Coast Stadium.

The Mariners led 1-0 halfway through the second half and looked to be heading for their first win of the season when Okon was given a straight red card for bringing down Central Coast replacement striker Adam Kwasnik in the 75th minute.

The incident seemed to spark the Jets into all-out attack mode, while the Mariners looked like they eased up on their intensity levels. And with just eight minutes left in regular time, Newcastle's Joel Griffiths grabbed the equaliser.

"I thought we dominated the first half," said McKinna. "We played some great stuff, probably the best football we played all year."

"The second half, unfortunately for us, Paul Okon got sent off, and we started sitting back a little bit and not taking advantage of the 10 men."

"Newcastle just started bombing forward and we had to pick them up. It was a siege mentality, they came at us and were going for it."

"They were down one-nil, they had lost a man, so obviously we had to pick them up, but when we got the ball we didn't keep it as well as we did in the first half and we started giving the ball away and making wrong options."

After coming so close to its first win of the season, McKinna said the Central Coast players were noticeably deflated after the match, but he also pointed out several positives from the local-derby draw.

"The mood is very sombre in there (the dressing room)," he said. "Ok we've lost two points, but I think the reality is we have let ourselves down over the last four or five weeks."

McKinna also saw John Hutchinson's goal in the 12th minute as an important step in turning their season around. It was the Mariners' first goal this campaign and relieves the collective weight off the team that the coach believes has been responsible for seeing last year's grand finalists at the bottom of the table after five rounds. "We definitely turned the corner tonight," McKinna said. "We got one monkey off our back getting a goal, so we just need to get our first win and hopefully that is going to be Thursday over in New Zealand."

Round 5 Scoreboard

New Zealand Knights 0
Sydney FC 1 (Mark Rudan 58)
Crowd: 2764

Queensland Roar 0
Adelaide United 0
Crowd: 16,143 at Suncorp Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 1 (Hutchinson 12)
Newcastle Jets 1 (Griffiths 82)
Crowd: 8,439 at Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium, Gosford.

Perth Glory 1 (Tarka 90)
Melbourne Victory 2 (Caceres 55, Muscat 73 p)
Crowd: 7,983 at Members Equity Stadium

A-League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne victory	5	5	0	0	11	3	15
Queensland Roar	5	3	2	0	11	2	11
Sydney FC	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Adelaide Utd	5	2	1	2	8	4	7
Perth Glory	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
New Zealand	5	1	1	3	1	9	4
Newcastle Jets	5	0	3	2	5	10	3
CC Mariners	5	0	2	3	0	4	2

Round 6 Fixtures

New Zealand Knights FC

Central Coast Mariners

Thursday 28 Sep 06

North Harbour Stadium 6.00 pm

Newcastle Jets

Perth Glory

Fri 29 Sep 06

Energy Stadium 8pm

Melbourne Victory

Queensland Roar

Sun 1 Oct 06

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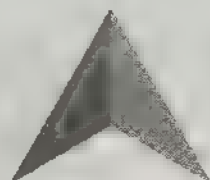
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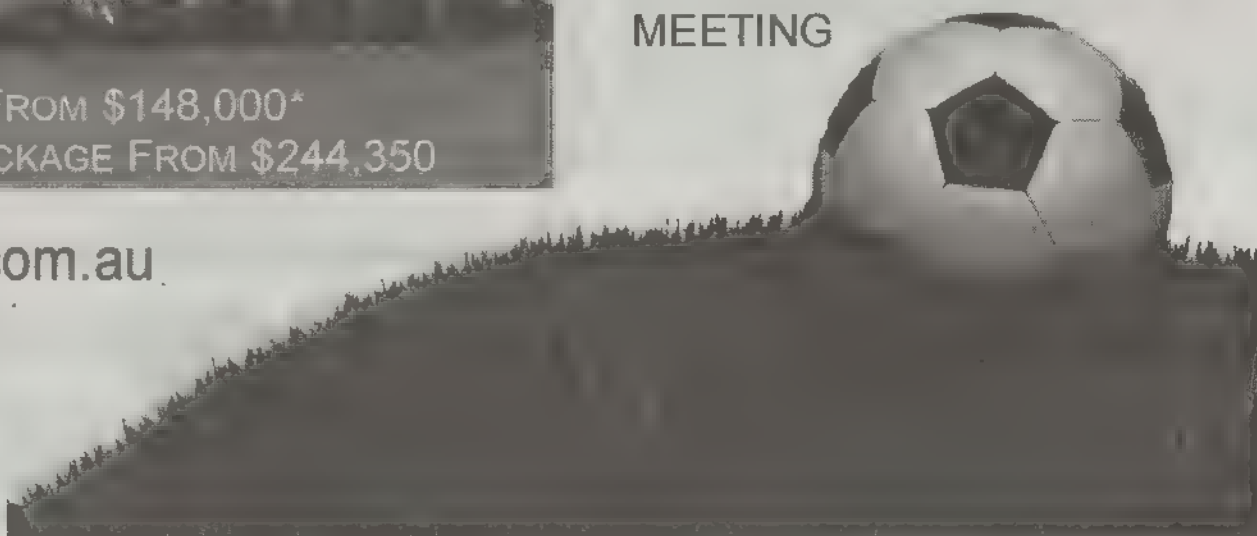
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Monday 25 September

SUCCEROO

a pom's home view



As Goal! Weekly draws to a season's close, we leave the Premiership in the comfort that Chelsea has resumed the top spot with Arsenal and Liverpool picking up their form and thus the structure of the table is regaining balance. Meanwhile, off the field, a new scandal of epic Italian proportions has hit the FA...

The BBC Panorama programme has recently investigated reports on World Cup hooligans and FIFA corruption and has now turned its attention to the Premier League with a nine-month investigation, including undercover agents and secret filming. The BBC uncovered evidence of a 'bungs' scandal and will now meet with the Football Association who wish take the allegations further.

In essence, several managers and club management staff have been filmed breaking FA rules. Two agents claimed they paid 'bungs' to Bolton manager Sam Allardyce. They describe offering to pay money to Allardyce's son Craig, who Panorama claims received secret payments from agents during three trans-



Who's next to follow George Graham in the Beautiful 'Bung'?

fer deals. Craig and Sam Allardyce deny any wrong-doing in his deals or relationship with the club. Portsmouth manager Harry Redknapp is accused of 'tapping up' Blackburn defender Andy Todd. Redknapp denies this despite being filmed. Redknapp's assistant Kevin Bond was secretly recorded admitting he would consider discussing receiving payments from a proposed new agency. Officials from Liverpool and Chelsea were shown discussing their interest in signing Middlesbrough's youth star Nathan Porritt. But again, both clubs deny breaking Football Association rules. All of the above and more are said to be taking legal advice are likely to announce plans to sue the BBC.

One of Arsenal's most successful managers, George Graham was the first and only casualty of the previous bungs scandal, which hit English football over a decade ago. Graham's reputation was tarnished forever when he was found guilty of receiving money as part of a transfer deal by a FA inquiry in 1995. It was discovered that he had taken over £400,000

in illegal payments from an agent. After being sacked by Arsenal following the initial allegations in February, he was found guilty of misconduct by the FA five months later. Graham insisted that he had received 'unsolicited gifts' and not an illegal 'bung'. He received a one-year ban from football.

'Bungs' and corruptions are not new to football. The rumour and gossip has been rife for years. Irrespective of the popular belief that it might be 'part of the culture', it should not be. 'Bungs' are fraud, criminal and deceitful. It is perfectly logical to make the case that in the end, the fans pay, because they are the ones who provide the income for the clubs by purchasing the tickets and merchandise. Hopefully, it will be the ones who offer and take 'bungs' who will pay the price in the end. George Graham did and returned to lead Leeds and then Spurs. Panorama has uncovered some dirty dealings that can not be ignored by the FA, and I believe more heads will roll!

By Richard Sucksmith

TARTAN TALK with Nic Townshead



Celtic v Rangers: the biggest rivalry in world sport. This is where myths are created, and famous victories are immortalised. On countless occasions it has resulted in riots, deaths and destruction. For many, it's more than just a football match. It's a showdown between religions, history, politics, class and national identity. Catholics v Protestants. Republicans v Unionists.

But most of importantly of all, it's a match between the two biggest clubs in Scotland. Both sides know they won't win the Premiership unless they can win these matches, and often a victory means a decisive break from the other on the table.

The first Old Firm derby of the season can often be the most intense.

A win for either side is a huge psychological advantage for the rest of the season. Both sides are also likely to have a number of players making Old Firm debuts, and no matter how experienced and well travelled a player is, they're unlikely to have experienced anything like Celtic v Rangers. The pace and intensity of the game, coupled with the passion and hatred of supporters, create an extraordinarily high-pressure situation. As former Rangers manager Alex McLeish says, "There is no way you can prepare for it."

This time round, honours go to Celtic after beating Rangers 2-0 at Parkhead last Saturday. Having only won once at Parkhead in the past

15 visits, Rangers were always going to be the underdog. But Celtic dominated, and Rangers rarely looked close to scoring. The result puts Celtic six points clear on top, and outright favourites to win the Premiership. Whole careers are made and broken on the results of these matches. By scoring the first goal, Thomas Gravesen may finally be forgiven for his gaffs against Manchester United two weeks ago.

Going into the match, all the attention was on Celtic striker Kenny Miller. The last time he played in an Old Firm derby, he was wearing a Rangers strip. That was six years ago, in a match the Gers won 5-1.

However after five seasons with Wolves, Miller returned to Scotland this year, and became only the third player ever to play for both Celtic and Rangers. While he has been impressive playing for Scotland, before last Saturday he was yet to score for Celtic, and the pressure was mounting. But in the 74th minute, Miller scored. The goal put Celtic 2-0 up, almost ensuring them victory in a vital match against much-hated rivals. It was the best possible way for him to break his drought, earning him a big reprieve.

The result will also have a lasting effect on the careers of each manager, significantly altering their standing amongst fickle supporters. Gordon Strachan claimed the match was his best Old Firm derby so far, and it has no doubt improved his reputation. Paul Le Guen, on the other hand, finds his job in question after only eight games. His lacklustre defences of his team also fail to inspire, as he continue to claim his team will



improve with time. But in a competition as tight as the Old Firm, very little time is allowed before the chance to win top spot has been lost.

Celtic is now seven points ahead of Rangers, and their nearest rival is Hearts in second. The Jambos have the opportunity to get within three points if they can beat Aberdeen on Sunday. Celtic was also assisted by Falkirk, who defeated Hibs 1-0. Up to this week, Hibs had arguably been playing the best football in the competition, having beaten Rangers 2-1 last week, and thrashing Gretna 6-0. After a slow start to the season, they were gradually moving up the table. But in a spiteful game, that resulted in four players being sent off, Hibs missed the chance to claim second spot.

In other matches Dunfermline came back

from a goal down, to beat St. Mirren 2-1. The winning goal was scored by Stevie Crawford, his first since returning to the Pars earlier this season, after stints with Aberdeen and Dundee United. Inverness CT and Kilmarnock drew 1-1, their fourth consecutive draw against one another, while both Dundee United and Motherwell continue to sit near the bottom of the table after drawing 1-1.

In the League Cup, SPL sides continue to dominate with Gretna, Alloa, Livingston and Queens Park all knocked out last week. The only non-SPL side still in the final eight is First Division side St. Johnstone, after they beat Dundee United 3-0.

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Monday 25 September

Katsa's Korner



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One bad dim sim can ruin an entire weekend One bad penalty kick can ruin an entire season!

Just ask Bentleigh Greens who lost their playoff match against the Southern Stars, and are now relegated to Division 2 State League.

It was hardly an inspiring match, with the Southern Stars winning the penalty shoot out, and now progress to State League Division 1 next season.

Man of the match was Southern Stars' Murat Caliskan, this guy is one of the best players that I have seen going around in ALL leagues.

Skilful, composed and with great vision, if he was a touch younger and fitter, he could certainly play VPL. Spectators of the year goes to the Southern Stars who provide a great atmosphere at their matches.

Congratulations to Frank McGrellis and his team, he was as happy as Larry after the match.

It only seems like yesterday that the Southern Stars were in the Provisional Leagues, they have certainly come a long way since then.

Where to now for Bentleigh though?

From VPL to State 2 in successive years, the Club is now at the crossroads, in that they have to regroup for 2007, to stop the slide from continuing.

The most popular document at this game was the Bentleigh Greens Team sheet as State League Division 1 powerbrokers wanted a copy of it so as they can add to their shopping lists for players for next year.

I did offer my services to one of these powerbrokers to write a \$\$\$ amount next to each name but he declined.

FFV

In the Off Season, the FFV Competition department will be studying the Melways and www.whereis.com.au, in that they will have a massive headache in formulating the 2 State League Divisions.

There is an imbalance between the number of teams in the North West and South East, one unfortunate team from the North West will have to stock up on petrol vouchers for next year, as they will be playing in the South East competition.

Who that team will be is anyone's guess!

A-League

Ernie is sitting pretty on top spot in the A-League ladder, and has heard the fat lady sing four times this year already.

Bigger and better things now await Ernie, as six of the Victory's eight games have been moved to Telstra Dome, allowing more spectators to watch Ernie's great coaching performances.

The A-League is here to stay in Australia, when it was first launched, I was very sceptical as to whether it will succeed. Succeed it certainly has, sell out crowds and attendances that the ex NSL administrators could have only dreamed off.

The pleasing thing for me though is the fact that people can take their families to A-League games without any threat of them being harmed through crowd violence. Remember, soccer can do without crowd violence and politics based on racial issues.

Vodafone Cup

Vodafone Cup Clubs are now obtaining quotes from Bob Cat Hire companies, as they will be clearing out a number of players from their playing lists.

I have it on very good authority that one club will cull as many as seven high profile players, but there will be a number of other club's Bob Cats who will be on stand by to take these players to their new homes.

The mood around the traps is that many Clubs have grown tired of paying these high profile, well credentialed players large sums of money and will be going for a mix of Youth and experience in 2007.

Another idea doing the rounds at the moment is that the FFV should enforce a rule that each Vodafone Cup team must have three Under 21 players in their team each week.

This will certainly allow the forced development of the younger brigade, however I have always believed that players should be selected based on merit and not age. This idea does have some merit though and it will ensure that the younger players will be developed.

The board of management of the Westgate Bridge con-



Southern Stars keeper Kosta Pajic lives up the ecstasy of a well deserved win against Bentleigh Greens

tacted me recently to find out if they will be having any more visitors, it seems that there has been some damage caused on the Rails at the top of the Bridge that need to be repaired.

I gave them the green light to proceed with these repairs, as whoever has had to use the Bridge has already done so, maintenance work will commence shortly, and the Bridge will be available again next year, big-

ger and better than before, and will greet unsuccessful powerbrokers with open arms!

Until next week...

This is Katsa, but not as you've known him, and when the Fat Lady sings, I hope that your team is the winner!

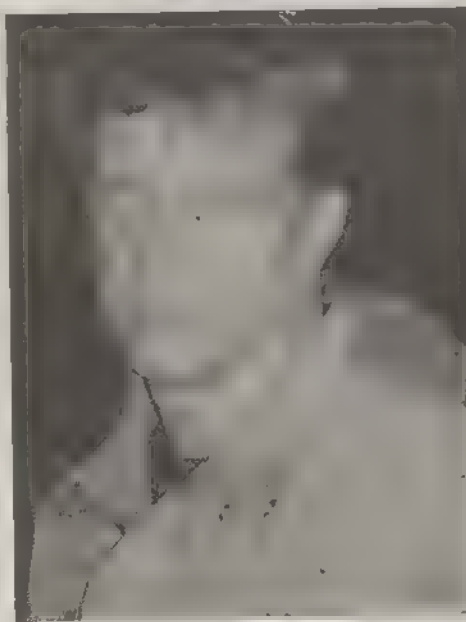
Taylor To Lead Knights In 2007

The Melbourne Knights have appointed Chris Taylor as its coach for Season 2007. The Somers Street club has wasted no time in attempting to bury the nightmare of the past year by appointing the former Sunshine Georges supreme to the hot seat at Knights Stadium.

In an exclusive interview Goal! Weekly asked Taylor how he felt about his appointment, "I'm absolutely delighted and fully relish the challenge of looking after probably one of the biggest clubs in Victoria."

Taylor has been out of the coaching game since his Round Six exit from Chaplin Reserve and he said, "obviously, the break has helped me to refocus and think about what I want to do, but you don't get the opportunity with a club like Melbourne Knights very often. I think it's a very, very big challenge for me and I'm fully aware the club demands success and they want success next year."

Asked what the aim is for next year Taylor also added, "I think after avoiding relegation on goal difference it should really be a big reality check for everyone involved at the club. Looking at the squad from earlier in the season, they were possibly the best team in the league at one stage, before falling away. If I can change the mentality



in the dressing room hopefully they can football like they did in the start of the season."

The Knights look to begin its tilt at the 2007 title by commencing pre-season in the second week of November.

Coaches wanted at Knox City Season 2007

The Knox City SC are reviewing all senior coaching positions for season 2007.

At senior men's we have teams in the following competitions
Seniors and Reserves FFV State league 2 South/East
Proposed FFV Under 18 Super League

Senior and Reserves Bayside Premier League.

We are inviting expressions of interest for all the above positions.

Interested applicants can write to the Club at PO Box 144 Boronia
Vic 3155, or phone Club Chairman

Cor Teeuw on 0409 834 546 by 8 October 2006.

All applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Knox City will be hosting the popular All Nations Cup again this year running from 4 November until 10 December 2006. Details will appear on the Club website knoxcitysoccerclub.com.au in early October. All enquiries to Chas Collison 0409 021 339.



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SEASON IN REVIEW



The Vodafone Cup was launched in February with prize money worth \$80,000. It vows to support all clubs, reds and blues, and white every Monday.

JANUARY

It's a World Cup year and Goal Weekly, rolls off the press for a second year with the bold intention off bringing its readers the best of the weekend's Victorian football results every Monday.

The Vodafone Victorian Premier League is relaunched as the Vodafone Cup and a total prize pool of \$80,000 is put up for grabs. Kingston City and Richmond Eagles join the fray as the two new teams promoted, replacing Bentleigh Greens and St Albans Saints.

The big transfer moves during the off-season included Bill Damianos from Heidelberg to Oakleigh, Marco Maisano and Craig Elvin from Frankston Pines to Melbourne Knights, Johnny Sapazovski from Preston Lions to Fawkner/Whittlesea Blues and Oakleigh also picked up Steve Laurie from Sydney FC, Cameron Pino from Altona Magic, and Scott Webster from Frankston Pines. Frankston Pines went to great lengths to convince Perth FC trio Antonio Nagleri, Dino Djulbic and Andreas Oliveira to relocate to a coast of a different type of variety, before they all make the switch to South Melbourne.

The new boys of the competition, Kingston and Richmond, showed they weren't going to be afraid to mix it in the 'big time' and also recruited heavily during the summer months. Kingston boldly lured established players such as Con Anthopoulos from Oakleigh, Joe Di Iorio from Richmond, Marcus Stergiopoulos from Magic, Alex Kiratzoglou from Melbourne Knights, Nick Tollo from Oakleigh and Steve Iosifidis from Essendon Royals. The Reds also signed the league's top scorer from last season, Michael Curcija from the Royals, and the message was clear that Kingston was very ambitious about 2006.

Richmond Eagles' indicated it meant business too, bringing in new faces Simon Webster (Pines), Semir Sivic (Pines), Tony Celentano (Royals), Veton Korcarevski (Heidelberg), Brenden Beni (Heidelberg), Daniel Visevic (South) and UK imports Steve Burton, Graham Hockless and Andy Ross.

On the A-league front, Melbourne Victory look set to finish the inaugural season as the worst placed Australian team in the standings, second last, with New Zealand bringing up the rear in an 8 team

competition. The highlight of Victory's season was a 5-0 "derby" rout of Sydney FC in front of a sell-out crowd at Olympic Park to go top of the table. An alarming slide down the table immediately followed and coach, Ernie Merrick, even had a website erected in his honour calling for his sacking. Merrick insisted he was building a team for the future and the board stood by him.

FEBRUARY

The Vodafone Cup kicks off with the two new boys of the competition recording opening day victories. Curcija repays Kingston City hitting the winner in a 1-0 victory over Sunshine Georgies, the Eagles take the points against the Royals in a 3-2 thriller. Kingston's victory is shrouded in controversy as the match is held up due to opening day exchanges. The appearance of MP Simon Crea and the national anthem delay the kick-off but just in time for another one of its new signings, goalkeeper Michael Turnbull, to make the starting line-up. Turnbull signs temporarily from Marconi and flew in from Sydney. The Georgies get ready for a trip to Darebin to lodge an official appeal. South Melbourne gains revenge of last season's Preliminary Final loss to arch rival Heidelberg United with a 2-0 win in front of 4,500 fans at Olympic Village. The Melbourne Knights go top of the table after producing a sublime opening forty five minutes of the season and demolish Preston Lions 3-1 at Connor Reserve. The Cannons show us a sign of things to come when it beats reigning champs Green Gully 2-1. Pines do the same with a 2-0 loss to Bulleen, as does Altona Magic with a 2-1 result against the mouthful of the comp, Fawkner/Whittlesea Blues.

Round Two in the Vodafone Cup sees Green Gully's championship winning coach, Ian Dobson, hand in his resignation, citing a serious illness to his wife as the reason. Andrew Marth is named as the replacement. South Melbourne goes top of the ladder after a 1-0 victory over FW Blues.

Premier Steven Bracks and the FFA's Frank Lowy announce that Victoria had secured a package of world class football events over the next four years, including a visit from European Champions, Greece, as a send off match for the Socceroos before heading to Germany.

Melbourne Knights regains top spot after South succumbs to a clinical 3-0 display by the team nicknamed the "Millionaires" of the competition, Kingston City. Richmond's UK recruit Andy Ross scores an

own goal in a 2-0 loss against the Knights before announcing after the match he's heading back to Blighty to coach kids at one of the David Beckham Academies.

Bulleen Zebras get stuck in to the transfer market nabbing the services of former A-leaguers Billy Celestki (Glory) and Ricky Diaco (Victory). Ernie Merrick leaves for Brazil shores in a scouting mission to strengthen his side for next season.

MARCH

Preston Lions' Connor Reserve pitch comes under attack from wildlife and is deemed unfit to play on, resulting in its home games being moved to Epping and a plethora of jokes about stoning crows soon follow.

Michael Turnbull is back on Tullamarine Freeway heading for the airport, this time to join the wooden spooners of the A-league, New Zealand Knights.

The Melbourne Knights meanwhile still lead the Vodafone Cup on 11pts, ahead on goal difference from Altona Magic, Oakleigh (10 pts), Kingston (10 pts) and South (10 pts). Pines makes up the Top Six whilst down the bottom Preston is still winless after five rounds.

The A-league concludes with a finish that couldn't have been better scripted. In front of a record crowd of 41,689 the glamour side of the competition, Sydney FC, defeats Central Coast Mariners 1-0. Steve Corica hits the all important winner from an assist by Man of the Match, Dwight Yorke, to take out Australian club football's grandest prize that some thought looked very much like a toilet seat.

Captain Kevin Muscat is awarded with the Victory medal, Melbourne Victory's recognition of its Player of the Year.

Melbourne hosts the Commonwealth games with many an athlete shedding tears of joy. Richmond Eagles' hugely anticipated first game in Victoria's top flight competition since the 60's also lends in tears, when the newly installed floodlights blow and its match against Heidelberg Utd is abandoned with the home team losing 2-0. Frantic efforts are made to restore power but all to now avail. The match is played at a later date with the referee commencing play again from the 35th minute mark. Heidelberg scores again to win 3-0.

By Round Six Katsas' Scoreboard starts to get into the swing. Sunshine Georgies coach Chris Taylor makes his mark when after one win in six games, Taylor ends his three year association with the Chaplin Reserve outfit. South Melbourne's Youth coach and former



To watch the A-league in droves, football fever sweeps the country. Melbourne Victory finishes top of the table.

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THE 90th MINUTE

Monday 25 September

SEASON IN REVIEW



The Victorian football family was in mourning after the tragic loss of Peter Kakos in May

Brunswick Juventus player, Joe "Pepe" Montemurro, takes over and gets his first shot at the big time. In Montemurro's first game in charge the Georgies record a shock 1-0 win over South.

By Monday evening following the same weekend Vlado Vanis follows in Taylor's footsteps and surrenders his post immediately after the Preston Lions slump to a 2-0 defeat to the Zebras at the Veneto Club. Former club legend Goran Lozanovski moves into the hot seat at Conner reserve from Williamstown.

Kingston City hits the heights and leads the pack after seven rounds with 5 wins, a draw and a loss. Curcija does the same in the goalscorer's list with 6 goals, ahead by one from Magic's Sash Becvinovski.

APRIL

Con Boutsianis resurfaces in the Vodafone Cup and signs for Oakleigh Cannons. The former Socceroo wastes no time hitting the headlines and nets the winner on debut as a second-half substitute to help the Cannons beat the Magic 2-1. Thanks to Boutsis' Round Nine last minute winner, the Cannons go top of the table for the first time this season. Lozanovski's magic wand has an immediate effect at Preston as the Lions secure only its second win of the season with a 4-3 thriller over FW Blues and simultaneously hoist itself off the bottom of the ladder. The Sunshine Georgies and Richmond Eagles now occupy the two relegation spots. The Melbourne Knights haven't won since Round Four and slip out of the Top Six.

Geoff Miles is announced as the Melbourne Victory's

first full-time CEO. The former Sheffield Shield cricketer and Commerce Law graduate was also CEO of the Victorian Soccer Federation from 1996 to 2003. Frankston Pines coach Craig Lewis adds to Katsas' Scoreboard tally when he informs the Monterey Reserve faithful he's accepted a job offer in Dubai. Adam Jamieson gets set to take over first team duties as Lewis jets it.

FFV stakeholders vote overwhelmingly for constitutional reform, adopting for more equality in the voting process for all clubs and a major shift in the way the FFV Commission is elected.

MAY

Pierre Littbarski's short and successful coaching stint in Australia abruptly ends when he fails to agree terms with Sydney FC. The former World Cup winner and A-league winning coach feels the club isn't doing enough to re-employ his services. Sydney gratefully responds by asking Pierre to take a pay cut.

The Victorian football family is deeply saddened by the news that prominent Vodafone Cup footballer, Peter Kakos, lost his fight for life against a brain tumour. The former State team representative and two time VPL championship winner played his last game for the Cannons against his former team, Bulleen Zebras, in a Monday night match before complaining of a headache shortly afterwards. A shrine of remembrance is erected at Jack Edwards Reserve, a minutes silence is observed at every Vodafone Cup match and the football world is left to mourn a huge loss.

The Vodafone Cup coaching merry-go-round

continues as Phil Stubbins is sensationally dumped as coach of Heidelberg United. According to Stubbins, player power wins the day and Con Pappas is shortly appointed as the replacement. Meanwhile, Essendon Royals coach Luciani Trani also departs the competition, making way for reserve team coach David Winton to take over. Richmond Eagles decide to show Dean Hennessey the door as the Vodafone Cup hits the half-way mark.

Over 95,000 spectators fill the MCG to wave goodbye to the Socceroos as they prepare to participate in their first World Cup Finals appearance since 1974. Geelong boy Jostp Skoko scores a 16th minute winner to add the Greek scalp to Guss Hiddink's impressive brief term as coach since replacing Frank Farina. The Socceroos play with technical and tactical sophistication, the European Champs seem to have their minds elsewhere. Still, the signs look positive for Germany and the country's new found enthusiasm for "New Football" and its new heroes begins to slowly swell.

JUNE

Whilst the eyes of the world prepare for Germany, the Vodafone Cup heads into a recess with Oakleigh building a 5 point gap over its nearest challengers, Kingston City and Altona Magic. Phil Stubbins wastes no time finding another coaching position, landing the top job at Kevin Bartlett Reserve and leading bottom placed Richmond Eagles to a 1-1 draw against Frankston Pines in his first game in charge. In a rescheduled match South Melbourne slam 7 goals past a deteriorating Melbourne Knights, leaving coaching Joe Biskic no alternative but to hand in his resignation after the match.

Monday 12th June is the moment the Australian football team's date with destiny finally arrives... and how! After a staggering 32 years in the football wilderness the Socceroos show the world they are more than worthy of competing on the biggest show on earth when it scores three goals in the last 8 minutes of play to score a memorable 3-1 come from behind victory. Tim Cahill makes history by becoming the first Aussie to score at a World Cup by grabbing a double and substitute John Aloisi sends the country into a state of euphoria for the second time in six months.

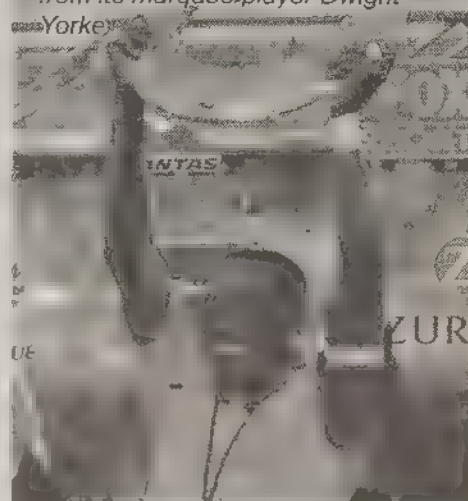
In its second group match the Socceroos are pitted against cup favourites, Brazil, and although perform admirably are unable to match the clinical finishing by the reigning World champions and fall short by 2-0. Croatia and Japan play out a 0-0 stalemate and as expected, the fight for the remaining qualifying spot will come down to the final group match.

In a pulsating 2-2 that practically had the whole country on the edge of its seat, Australia comes from behind twice against Croatia to proceed through to the next round. Hiddink chose goalkeeper Zelko Kalac to start ahead of Uruguay penalty shoot-out hero Mark Schwarzer. Kalac concedes a world class free-kick and a soft goal of schoolboy proportions to put the game on a knives

JULY

While Gully welcomes back Dobbo, the club bids farewell to Rodrigo Vargas who makes the move to

Sydney FC captures the A-league trophy thanks to a stellar season from its marquee player Dwight Yorke

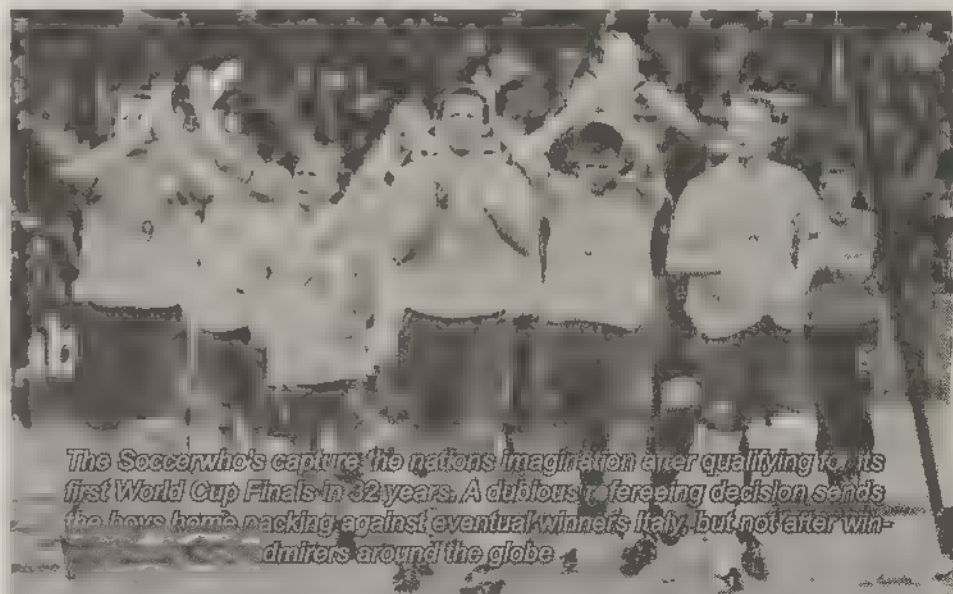


edge. Craig Moore's penalty and a Harry Kewell dramatic equaliser saved Kalac's blushes as World Cup fever swept the country.

The emotional roller coaster ride continued into the Round of 16 knock out stages as the Aussies match it with the Italians right up until eight seconds from the end of the match on June 26th. A controversial and cruel penalty decision was awarded to Italy following Grosso's tumble over Lucas Neil's legs in the box. A bemused audience witnesses a successful conversion by Totti brings an end to the fairy tale and sends the Socceroos home in a state of shock. Italy went on to win the trophy for the fourth time in its history, beating France in the Final on penalties after the score finished 1-1. Hiddink bids farewell to his Australian odyssey and decides to spearhead the Russian's attempt at European success. The Italians are rocked by match fixing scandals that are set to explode back in Rome.

Meanwhile, the Vodafone Cup resumes for Round 17 and Oakleigh Cannons maintain a four point gap over nearest rival South Melbourne. Richmond continues to improve under Stubbins and pulls itself off the bottom with a 4-3 victory against Green Gully. Surprisingly, last year's champs and Frankston Pines now occupy the bottom two positions.

Equipped with the good news his wife is on the road to full recovery, Ian Dobson answers the SOS of the Cavaliers and returns to inspire immediate results. In another high scoring encounter Gully overcomes Heidelberg in a nine goal thriller and only eight points now separates nine teams from 5th spot ('Bergers) to second last position (Gully).



The Socceroos capture the nations imagination after qualifying for its first World Cup Finals in 32 years. A dubious refereeing decision sends the boys home packing against eventual winners Italy, but not after win-ners admirers around the globe

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SEASON IN REVIEW



Melbourne Victory looks to South America and beyond to bolster its ranks and prepare for a serious challenge of the A-league: Version II

Melbourne Victory. Vargas joins Fred, Claudinho, Allesandro and Caceres as Merrick's band of South Americans grows at Olympic Park. Ex-Manchester United apprentice Grant Brebner also joins the ranks after playing more recently in the Scottish Premier League.

Melbourne opens its 2006/07 season with a 1-0 Pre-season Cup loss to perennial hoodoo team, Adelaide United, in front of 6,834 spectators in Launceston. Yet another Vodafone Cup coach won't get the chance to finish the season after Kenny Murphy and third placed Altona Magic fail to resolve their differences. Vlado Torteovski is now the main man at Paisley Reserve.

Not to be outdone, the once high flying Kingston City, who have since stuttered in the second half of the season decide to ring the changes as well and George Katsakis is told his services are no longer required. Within the same week Kenny Murphy is appointed to take over George's position at The Grange Reserve.

Oakleigh Cannons continue to march towards the Minor Premiership and dispatch of Sunshine Georgies by 4-1. It now leads the table by a massive 10 points with only five rounds left. The Georgies and the Pines now take up the 13th and 14th positions. Meanwhile, Preston recovers from a sloppy start to the season and breaks into the Top Six for the first time this season. The Melbourne Knights on 27 points sit just behind

Preston and the Essendon Royals on 24 points, sit just above the bottom two.

The Central Coast Mariners come to town and bundle the Victory out of the pre-Season Cup with a 3-1 scoreline.

The Matildas qualify for the FIFA 2007 World Cup after reaching the Final of the AFC Women's Cup.

Fawkner/Whittlesea's Sash Ognenovski signs with the A-league's Queensland Roar.

AUGUST

Oakleigh Cannons sew up the Minor Premiership with a three rounds to spare after a bruising 1-0 encounter against South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium. Supersub Con Boutsianis does it again with a trademark free-kick at his old hunting ground, extinguishing any hopes of fellow teams catching the runaway leaders.

Meanwhile at the other end of the table, Sunshine Georgies are thrown a lifeline when it beats an improving Green Gully 2-1 in a memorable derby match. The vastly improved Richmond and Gully are by now eyeing a Top Six spot.

In the second last round of the home and away matches South Melbourne whallops Frankston Pines 5-1 and dooms the Peninsula club to Division One football for 2007, ending a three year stint in the state's elite competition in the process.

Essendon Royals seize the day and any faint hopes of surviving by inflicting a surprise 4-1 hammering over Kingston City. At Somers Street Joe Spoljar's short yet turbulent time as first team coach of the Melbourne Knights comes to a close. Players Adrian Cagalj and Ryan Casey assume the role.

Heading into the final round of the Vodafone Cup a thrilling last day of the season was anticipated by spectators, players and officials alike. Any one of four teams, Knights (30 pts), Georgies (30 pts), FW Blues (28 pts) and Royals (27 pts) could possibly join the Pines as the second team to face the drop. Meanwhile in the quest for the Top Six, four teams (Lions, Kingston, Gully and Zebras) all stood in with a chance for Finals football.

In a dramatic final day, the Royals banged four goals away at Preston to secure one Vodafone Cup football's greatest escapes. Preston's first home defeat of the season together with other results from other grounds meant it agonisingly missed out on the Top Six. Green Gully gratefully took advantage of the Lions slip to sneak into sixth spot on 37 points and on goal difference after beating South Melbourne 2-0.

FW Blues' Mark Tsioulas broke Sunshine Georgies hearts when he scored the only goal of the game to save the Blues and send the Georgies tumbling into Division One.

The Knights were unaware how close they were to joining the Pines instead of Sunshine, only one goal in fact, Nathan Caldwell's spot-kick was enough to save them on goal difference, after going down 2-1 to Kingston.

In the end, three teams (Royals, Knights and Georgies) all finished on 30 points, but by virtue of goal difference the Georgies were relegated in one of tightest finishes in competition history.

The Magic made sure of the double chance in the finals by accounting of Heidelberg by 2-0, while Oakleigh and Pines played out a 1-1 draw in a match between top and bottom. The Eagles finished its season on a high with a 3-0 defeat of the Zebras. The A-league season embarks on its second season and the Melbourne Victory smashes its Adelaide hoodoo to secure a 2-0 opening day win in front of 15,781 fans at Olympic Park.

SEPTEMBER

In the first week of the Vodafone Cup Final Series, the Magic beat the Cannons by 2-0, South eliminates Gully by 3-0 and Kingston also bows out with a 5-1 loss to Heidelberg.

Melbourne Victory continues its good form by winning against Sydney FC 3-2 in front of a record club crowd of 39,730 at the Telstra Dome.

South Melbourne beat Magic 2-1 to advance to the Vodafone Cup Grand Final, while Minor Premiers, Oakleigh Cannons, go out in straight sets when it

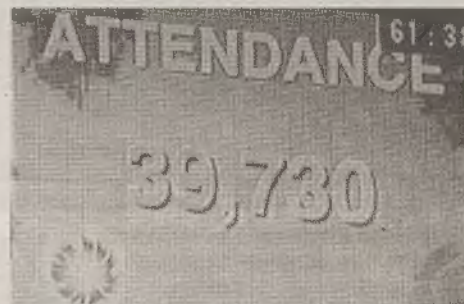


Vodafone Cup coaches were left to watch their back in 2006 as a staggering 10 clubs out of 14 chose to change its personnel during the course of the season

loses 1-0 to Heidelberg.

Altona Magic beat Heidelberg 1-0 in the Preliminary Final to book a date with South in the Grand Final. In the WPL it will be Box Hill Inter to play Heidelberg United.

At the Gold Medal night, the league's Top Scorer Sash Becvinovski of Altona Magic makes it two from two when he wins the men's award. Box Hill Inter's Anthea Vardakis captures the women's equivalent.



A record crowd for an Australian club match watches Victory beat Sydney FC in the "derby" match staged at Telstra Dome



Close, but not close enough! Sunshine Georgies joins Frankston Pines as the two teams relegated from the Vodafone Cup in one of the most enthralling finishes witnessed in its history

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Monday 25 September

FOOTBALL FOCUS... with Anthea Vardakas

Name: Anthea Vardakas

Club: Box Hill Inter

Position: Centre Midfield

Age: 21

Height: 159cm

Weight: 53

Nickname: Anth, Van,

Previous clubs: Cranbourne

Representative honours? V.I.S scholarship, Victorian state team representative (since 1998), Victoria Vision Representative, NSW Representative (1997).

Outfield player you most enjoy watching in the WPL?

Daniella Didgiammarco, Belinda Pacella

In the world? Ronaldinho

Hardest keeper and team to score against? Melissa Barbieri

Occupation? Assistant Training Consultant @ (Vecci Apprenticeship Services)

Craziest team mate of all time? Shepa (Amanda Lawless)

Most influential coach of all time? Harry Chalkitis / Daniela Didgiammarco / Gary Groenewald (too hard to choose)

Most memorable match as a player? 2004 & 2005 WPL Grand Final (Box Hill Inter v's Cranbourne Comets)

As a fan? Australia v's Croatia 06

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran? At home

And when Australia qualified for the World Cup against Uruguay? A local pub

Did you make it over to the World Cup this year? No, I wish!

Your tip for the A-league? Melbourne Victory

Most memorable goal you've scored? 2004 WPL Grand Final.

Worst injury: Torn PCL

Funniest moment in football?

Record number of juggles in single attempt? 454

Steak, chicken parma or seafood?

Chicken Parma

Chips, veggies or salad? Chips

Pizza, cvape or souvlaki? Pizza

Favourite drink, non alcoholic and alcoholic? Sprite, Vodka/lemon & lime

Favourite nightspot? Chapel st

Favourite holiday destination? Sydney

Kitchen whiz or home handywoman? Neither

What's in the CD player right now? Bit of Techno

Dream date? Brad Pitt

First team-mate you'd invite to a party, and why? The whole Box Hill Team (u should see their performance at my 21st) lol

On the end of season trip, the last player to shout drinks will be... No one can remember who shouts the last round.

Match day superstitions or rituals? Cant play without wearing number 7, and same headband.

Typical matchday meal? Sandwich

Favorite sporting team when growing up? St George Dragons

What are your strengths? Ball control

What are your weaknesses? Air contests

Ten pin bowling or skydiving? skydiving

Toughest opponent? They're all pretty

tough.

Select a player that you play most like? Selin Kuralay

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game? Brazil

What is the last soccer shirt you bought? Ronaldo's (brazil)

Funniest rumour you have heard about yourself? That I'm in the running for the national team. lol

Childhood soccer idol? Ronaldo (Brazil)

Favorite former Socceroo? Paul Trimboli

Favourite Current Socceroo? Tim Cahill

What song or movie do you get inspiration from? Remember the titans

Do you watch Footballers Wives? No
Best away ground you like to visit? Bulleen Veneto Club

If I didn't play football I'd play... Theres seriously nothing else. Maybe tennis.

What fictional character would you



most like to be; why? Tweety or Elmo. (both too cute)

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie? Not fussed, as long as they can hit a screamer into the top corner from 25 metres out.

Any other bits of Anthea Vardakis trivia you want us to reveal? You wouldn't have enough room in the mag fit it all!

Thanks for spending time with Goal Weekly Anthea and congratulations on winning the WPL Gold Medal for Season 2006.



the

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ANTHEA VARDAKAS

2006 VODAFONE WPL GOLD MEDAL WINNER

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WEEKLY



HOW THE VOTING FINISHED...

Anthea Vardakas	Box Hill 35
Georgia Koutrouvelis	Box Hill 28
Seyma Erenli	Ashburton 26
Amy Skvarc	Bendigo Vipers 24
Leigh Terek	Cranbourne Comets 24
*Belinda Panella	Heidelberg United 20
Emma Minde	Heidelberg United 20
Sarah Groenewald	Heidelberg United 18
Jocelyn Murdock	Sandringham 17
Lisa Hodgkin	South Melbourne 17
Maika Ruyter-Hooley	Bendigo Vipers 17

*Ineligible due to suspension





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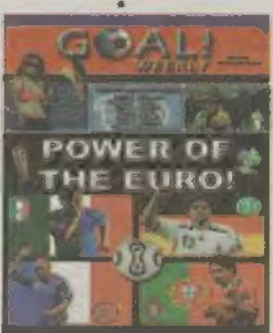
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